



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT
& HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

Week of Oct 17, 2005

AUSTRALIA

Salmonella Outbreak Confirmed in Tasmania, Australia

Sixty-four people were infected with salmonella from an outbreak in Tasmania, Australia. A bakery has been confirmed as the source of the outbreak. Salmonella was found in piping bags used to dispense cream and frosting. The public health director believes there was a lack of hygiene at the bakery, which led to the spread of bacteria to other foods. Six people were hospitalized, but have since been released.

Source:

· Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Oct 14, 2005, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200510/s1482364.htm>

· ProMED-mail, Oct 16, 2005,

http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1329283286113977926::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010.30709

HONG KONG

Hong Kong Preparing for Avian Influenza Outbreak

Hong Kong is currently working on emergency plans for a potential avian influenza outbreak and is preparing for up to 14,300 hospitalizations from the virus. The plans are a response to the WHO's warnings of a severe epidemic and are based on the 1968 Hong Kong influenza outbreak, which affected 15% of the country's population. The country is accumulating a supply of Tamiflu and hopes to have about seven million doses by March 2006.

Source:

· The Bangkok Post, Oct 19, 2005, http://www.bangkokpost.com/breaking_news/breakingnews.php?id=56441

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INDIA

Encephalitis in Uttar Pradesh, India Remains a Threat

The death toll in Uttar Pradesh, India from Japanese encephalitis has increased to 1142. The actual number of deaths may be much higher as the country does not have records about children dying in private nursing homes and in impoverished villages. The majority of the victims are children. Since mid-July 2005, over 4,800 cases of the disease have been recorded. The Health Minister has announced that the government is planning a vaccination campaign in November 2005, to prevent another epidemic next year [2006]. Health officials believe that the spread of the disease will decline as winter approaches.

Source:

· OutlookIndia.com, Oct 17, 2005, http://www.outlookindia.com/pti_news.asp?id=329325
· WebIndia123.com, Oct 18, 2005, <http://news.webindia123.com/news/showdetails.asp?id=140276&cat=Health>
· ProMED-mail, Oct 19, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1329283286113977926::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000.30735

Food Poisoning at Hotel in India

Several guests from the Mascot Hotel were hospitalized in Thiruvananthapuram, India (coastal city in southern India) after a food poisoning incident. The guests had consumed imported beef from Denmark. The Mascot Hotel is owned by the government and many top officials experienced food poisoning and were taken to private hospitals.

Source:

· KeralaOnline.com, Oct 14, 2005, http://www.keralaonline.com/keralanews.asp?folder=Keralanews&file=7_6992.xml

INDONESIA

Increase in Dengue Patients in Indonesia

Over 120 patients in Jakarta, Indonesia, are currently hospitalized with dengue fever. Due to heavy rains over the weekend, hospitals saw an increase in the number of patients admitted with the disease. As the rainy season approaches, hospitals in the capital are preparing for an increase in cases. Since January 2005, over 15,800 patients have received treatment for and 74 people have died from dengue fever in Jakarta.

Source:

· People's Daily Online, Oct 18, 2005, http://english.people.com.cn/200510/18/eng20051018_215006.html

Polio Reported in Indonesia as Country Prepares Vaccination Campaign

The Indonesian government has reported two polio cases in the provinces of Riau (central Sumatra) and Aceh (northern tip of Sumatra). The case in Aceh involves a three-year old boy who had not received all his vaccinations. A third vaccination drive

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will be held next month in order to reach the 11% of children previously unvaccinated in the August and September [2005] campaigns. Since March 2005, polio has affected 269 children in Indonesia. The disease has spread to 10 out of Indonesia's 32 provinces. The outbreak is reportedly linked to the virus currently affecting Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Health authorities believe the strain was brought to Indonesia through migrant workers and travelers.

Source:

· Bloomberg.com, Oct 18, 2005, <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000080&sid=a2V87kAv0fxU&refer=asia>
· International Herald Tribune, Oct 18, 2005, <http://www.iht.com/articles/2005/10/18/news/asia.php>
· Reuters AlertNet, Oct 18, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/JAK41746.htm>
· The Jakarta Post, Oct 19, 2005, <http://www.thejakartapost.com/detailheadlines.asp?fileid=20051019.A06&irec=5>
· ProMED-mail, Oct 19, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1329283286113977926::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30740

JAPAN

Thirteen Infected with Tuberculosis in Japan

Thirteen workers at a 24-hour internet café in Kawasaki, Japan (close to Tokyo) have been infected with tuberculosis. A customer, who was hospitalized with the infection in February, was using the café as a hotel. Out of the 21 employees at the café, 13 have tested positive for TB. Health officials are concerned that other customers may also have been infected and are asking them to contact local health centers.

Source:

· Mainichi Daily News, Oct 18, 2005, <http://mdn.mainichi-msn.co.jp/national/news/20051018p2a00m0na005000c.html>

MALAYSIA

Dengue Death Toll in Malaysia Rising

The death toll in Malaysia from dengue fever has risen to 78. The latest victims are an eight-year old girl and a 21-year old male. The number of suspected dengue cases has reached 31,037, although the number of confirmed cases is 8,889. Health officials are concerned that the number of cases will rise during the upcoming Muslim festive season, as many citizens return to their hometowns for a week. Houses will be left unattended and may provide breeding grounds for mosquitoes if not kept cleared. The Health Ministry hopes to increase awareness in fighting dengue in the near future. Kuala Lumpur and the island of Penang have reported the highest numbers of dengue cases in the country.

Source:

· New Strait Times, Oct 19, 2005, http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Wednesday/National/20051019093824/Article/indexb.html
· The China Post, Oct 19, 2005, http://www.chinapost.com.tw/i_latestdetail.asp?id=31739

PHILIPPINES

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Food Poisoning in the Philippines

Health officials in the province of Cagayan de Oro, Philippines (northern coastal region) are investigating a food poisoning incident in a public elementary school last week. Twenty-nine students and six adults fell ill after eating spaghetti that a student's mother had prepared and drinking orange juice. The victims experienced stomach pain, vomiting, dizziness and diarrhea and were taken to various hospitals. The possible causes of the outbreak include the ingredients used, food-handling and food-packing.

Source:

- Sun Star Cagayan-de-Oro, Oct 19, 2005, <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/static/cag/2005/10/19/news/prov.l.health.office.to.finalize.probe.on.food.poisoning.html>

SINGAPORE

Dengue Cases Increasing in Singapore

The dengue fever toll in Singapore has risen to 14, with the latest victim a 67-year old man. There are currently over 12,000 cases in the country. Health officials believe that the peak season for the disease is over and have seen a reduction in the number of cases. The government has allocated US\$18 million to aid the outbreak and has created a panel of dengue specialists to help fight the disease.

Source:

- Channel News Asia, Oct 16, 2005, <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/173757/1.html>
- People's Daily Online, Oct 17, 2005, http://english.people.com.cn/200510/17/eng20051017_214700.html
- Yahoo! News, Oct 17, 2005, http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051017/hl_afp/healthsingaporedengue_051017111735

THAILAND

Avian Influenza Case Confirmed in Thailand

Thailand's Ministry of Public Health confirmed its first fatal case of H5N1 avian influenza this year [2005]. The victim was a 48-year old man from Kanchanaburi Province (150 km west of Bangkok), who died on 19 October [2005]. Officials believe the victim was infected through contact with infected poultry during slaughter. Avian influenza outbreaks in poultry have been reported in the province in the past few weeks. The victim's seven-year old son is currently being tested for infection, as he has shown signs of respiratory problems and had contact with diseased poultry.

Source:

- World Health Organization, Oct 20, 2005, http://www.who.int/csr/don/2005_10_20a/en/index.html
- Yahoo! News, Oct 20, 2005, http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051020/hl_afp/healthfluworld_051020222003

Other World News

PAKISTAN

Vaccinations Begin in Pakistan

The Health Minister reported that Pakistan has been vaccinating people against deadly

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diseases, such as tetanus and cholera, since the 8 October 2005 earthquake. There has been no evidence of disease outbreaks. Fumigation teams have been sent to treat bodies in devastated areas in order to prevent the spread of disease. Officials are also on alert for waterborne diseases from the sewage-polluted water. Over 12 hospitals and clinics were destroyed and many doctors and nurses were killed in the quake. Field hospitals have been set up in Kashmir and international medical teams have been sent to provide treatment.

Source:

· Reuters AlertNet, Oct 17, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ISL54990.htm>

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